FEB 2 3 1998



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Serial No: Eyles, Donald

08/943,742

Filed: For:

October 3, 1997 AUTOMATICALLY EXECUTING

DECISIONAL RULES

Paper No:

Group:

2309

Examiner: Docket No:

Downs DR-232J

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Washington, DC 20231

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class Aaif in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231, on February 19, 1998.

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend claims 1-5, 10, 16, 18, and 20-24 as follows:

1. (once amended) A method for automatically evaluating a decisional rule containing a task and a condition which must be fulfilled before the task can be performed and for automatically performing the task when the condition is fulfilled comprising:

entering said decisional rule into computing

means:

compiling said decisional rule to parse said

condition;

DR-232J